

# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### Don't Just Sit There!

By John Scott, K8YC

There's been a lot of discontent expressed the past few months about how "stinky" the bands have become because of the inactivity of our sun, Sol.

I'm here to tell you that the glass is not half-empty anymore! Instead, the glass is half-full which results only from having a different mindset about our hobby. "What's so great about propagation?", you may ask.

Well, despite the solar flux index hovering about 67 to 70, the longer periods of darkness (at least in the northern hemisphere of Mother Earth) resulting from putting the autumnal equinox behind us provides us with more hours for effective low band activity. If you're lucky, you have access to a 160m antenna. If not, 80m, 40m, and 30m are providing opportunities starting earlier each evening. It seems to this observer that even more activity is being

AA4ZZ	Paul Trotter	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
TBD	TBD	Sec./Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
NV4A	John Forbus	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	4th Call Area Bureau Mgr.
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

seen on 20m and 17m—perhaps it's only because hams are getting tired of waiting for band improvements and are just getting on the air more.

I attribute adding 16 new DX King entities since September 1 using only casual operating periods to the fact that more people are getting on the air. My 16 new entities for 2019 were added on top of a base number of 150, and we all know that it gets harder to find "new ones" once the easier entities are in the log. It occurred to me that perhaps some people are disappointed to not find DX to work because of relying on the cluster too much. To that issue I suggest either using DX Summit for your source of spots since the spots displayed there come from the world over, or to make sure you open any filters you may have activated on K4MD or W4DXA to report worldwide spots rather than merely spots originated by North American spotters. Remember, just because a spotter is in Uruguay, it does not mean the spotted DX cannot be heard in North America. Listen, listen, and then listen.

*(Continued on page 2)*

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR V.4 Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com:23
K4MD (AR V.6 Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com:7373
W4DXA (AR V.6 Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com:23
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600 )	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

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And what about contesting? The end of October brings us CQWW SSB and the end of November brings us CQWW CW. Both of those contests run for 48 hours on their respective weekends, and hams from all over the world will be active in those contests. Our old friend N4ZC used to say, "You can work DXCC in a weekend on CQ World Wide." That's one way to get your needed DX King numbers in one or two weekends! Try it.

If you don't have a big antenna farm, then try FT8 and/or FT4 which are the epitome of small signal tools. There is DX to be worked with only 50 watts using FT8. Indeed, the number of hams awarded DXCC has increased dramatically since FT8 came on the scene about two years ago.

As long as we've mentioned contesting, be aware that some CDXA members will be active from other DXCC entities in the coming CQWW contests. W4QNW will be operating with a Cuban Amateur Radio club using T42T in CQWW SSB. AA4V, W4GE, N4SF, and AA4VT will all be operating from St. Kitts/Nevis as V49V during CQWW SSB. I suspect we'll learn of others from our numbers venturing out for the CW version of CQ Worldwide as the day approaches.

Pitcairn Island will have an experienced DXpedition team beginning operation soon, too!

So, DON'T JUST SIT THERE! GET ON THE AIR!

### The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association  
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the Association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of associating with persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the Association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Position is currently vacant. Check website for alternate.

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: (TBD)

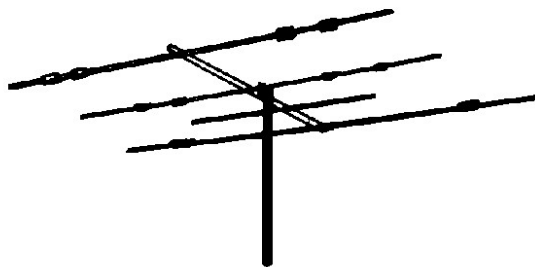
## 2019 DX King Results through September

John Forbus, NV4A

DX King numbers are still slowly building up in spite of the dismal propagation (The SFI is 67 as I write this.) Stay on the lookout for new "year-entities." Here are the results through September.

Callsign	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	257	40	297
K3WA	Unlimited	243	39	282
VE3UTT	Unlimited	221	40	261
W1AJT	Unlimited	216	40	256
N4PQX	Unlimited	210	40	250
W4HG	Unlimited	197	38	235
W3GQ	Unlimited	179	35	214
W4PNY	Limited	163	33	199
K8YC	Unlimited	160	32	192
NV4A	Unlimited	133	30	163
W3OA	Unlimited	115	30	145

*Some additional comments from the Editor: Despite the relatively low solar flux, there is still plenty of opportunity to add to your DX King counters. The conditions for DXing seem to be improving with the longer nights of Fall. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, I have added 16 DXCC entities to my DX King count just by some casual operating. The breakdown of modes is 4 on SSB, 7 on CW, and 5 on FT8 so your "favorite" mode can still produce counters. CQWW SSB and CQWW CW will be upon us in the coming weeks, and you can surely add many counters in those events if you've been awaiting "better conditions". See the article "Don't Just Sit There!" elsewhere in this issue to rev you up. Remember 150 points (DXCC Entities plus CQ Zones) is all you need to get into the DX King raffle!!! The odds are too good to pass up.*



## 2019 CQWW Contests Coming In October And November

John Forbus, NV4A

The weather seems to have *finally* started acting like it's fall, and here's another hint that fall is here: It's time to get ready for the CQ World Wide DX SSB and CW contests and CDXA's **Contest Within A Contest** (CWAC) which runs alongside CQWW. As is always the case, both SSB and CW contests run for 48 hours (minus a minute to be precise.) The sideband contest runs from 0000Z October 26 (8pm EDT on the 25th) until 2359Z on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The CW contest begins at 0000Z November 23 (that's 7:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on the 22<sup>nd</sup>) and ends on 2359Z on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>. If you don't already have these dates on your calendar, please add them so you won't forget to get in on the fun, help your Club get a great overall score, and even have a chance to win some prizes (...keep reading.)

We are offering our usual array of prizes to encourage participation in the CQWW and CWAC. The details are below, but first, as usual ...PLEASE NOTE: CDXA needs every member's help to improve our standings in the CQWW Club Competition. EVERY point counts, so even if you have limited operating time, please get on the air and help us out. Even if you aren't really a contester, look at this as a chance to add ATNOs, new band/mode entities, and "year entities" for the DX King Contest. A plus is that a pretty high percentage of testers upload their logs to LOTW, so you'll have a better than average chance to get that needed entity confirmed. As always, a good way to get in the right state of mind for CQWW (...after making sure your contest program is updated and your rig and antennas are working, and before getting some extra rest) is to watch the 2014 presentation by Randy, K5ZD, the former CQWW Contest Director and a top tester. The presentation is still very much relevant, and is filled with tips on how to improve your single operator score. You can get to the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VFYjRfBVwo>. The presentation covers a whole raft of subjects such as station layout, skills development, operating strategy, etc. Even if you've watched it before, it's still worth checking out again before the contest starts.

Now, for those prizes to add some additional incentive to participate: We are again giving away Outback Steakhouse gift cards for everything from chalking up 250 Qs or more over both weekends to finishing first overall. Remember the gift cards are also good at Carrabba's, Fleming's Steakhouse and the Bonefish Grill. One slight change this year: You have to be within 250 miles of our club center (defined as the center of EM95xe or Lat 35.186667, Lon -80.043333), or be on a DXpedition and have your usual QTH inside the 250 mile circle, for your score to count toward CDXA's total, and in years past we've limited prizes to only those members who met that criterion. This year any Member who submits a score to CQ and lets me know at [jtfnv4a@aol.com](mailto:jtfnv4a@aol.com) as soon as they've submitted their score will be "in the pot." A couple of other notes before listing the categories and prizes: An individual can only win one prize. The Multi-op prize will only be awarded to an entrant whose score is high enough to have won one of the other first place prizes.

First place prizes—each winner will receive a \$50 Outback Steak House gift card. These will be awarded in the categories listed below:

- Top combined Phone and CW score
- Top CW score
- Top CW score, low power\*
- Top Phone score
- Top Phone score, low power
- Top Multi-op score
- Top DXpedition score

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#### Other prizes:

1000 or more QSOs total in the Phone and CW contests--Each winner will receive a \$25 gift card for Outback Steak House.

500 or more QSOs--A photo printed CDXA certificate (suitable for framing of course) and a chance in a raffle for a \$25 gift card.

250 or more QSO's – A chance in a raffle for a \$25 gift card.

\*Most of us know that CW Low Power was the specialty of our good friend and Club Secretary/Treasurer Cliff, W3ZL. This year, and going forward, in addition to the gift card, the CW Low Power winner will get a certificate noting that it's the "W3ZL Memorial CW Low Power Award."

All logs must be submitted to CQ at <https://www.cqww.com/logcheck/index.php> within five days after the end of the contest. ( no later than 2359 UTC November 1, 2019 for SSB and 2359 UTC November 29, 2019 for CW.) Be sure to show "Carolina DX Association" in the log summary as your club, and don't abbreviate it. Please get your logs to me ([jtfnv4a@aol.com](mailto:jtfnv4a@aol.com)) as soon as you've submitted them to CQ so I can be ready to make all the prize presentations at the Holiday dinner December 7th. Let me know if you have any questions; also let me know if you are planning a DXpedition for CQWW. And, by all means, have fun!

### Six Meter Challenge

John Forbus, NV4A

It's getting late in the year, and we are still disappointingly short on entrants for our 6 Meter Challenge. Remember that I've said several times that you can work 6 meters with almost any antenna you have. There's a picture below of my tower on the ground ...where it stayed for much too long. The little yagi on the top ... err, the left ... is my 4 el 6m beam. I used it just where it was sitting to work AA4ZZ during the Fall VHF Contest. That was probably due much more to their altitude and their antenna than mine, but still ... My tower is finally back up and all my antennas are working fine. Now, I just need to have time to get on the air and hit a 6m opening! Anyway, here are the numbers through September:



Call	Category	Grids
W3GQ	High	309
K5EK	High	303
W3OA	Low	278
K7BV	High	179
KZ2I	Low	141
NV4A	Low	20
W4WNT	Low	7



## Get Involved

By John Scott, K8YC

There's an old adage that says "Many hands make for light work."

This adage is true in activities involving physical labor. It is also true in countless other activities of human endeavor. One that comes to mind each year is when it comes time to elect officers for the coming year in clubs and other organizations. To be sure, there are those in every organization who do the "heavy lifting". Unfortunately, anyone doing the heavy lifting for too long will exhaust themselves and step aside to rejuvenate themselves. The ideal is that where heavy lifting is needed, there will be those who are ready to lend a hand to share the load, thus making lighter work for each participant.

A number of "hands" help to bring all CDXAers hamfests, banquets, barbeques, friendly intracub

competition, newsletters, DXpedition support, and yes even track the use of club monies.

The whole process is more easily done when the organization of these activities is shared amongst those arranging the activity.

If you ask a volunteer what they receive from their involvement, it will invariably have a component of satisfaction with making the whole organization move forward. If you've never felt that pleasure, perhaps it is time that you did. If you've enjoyed participating in DX King, going to a hamfest banquet, submitting your score to CQ Magazine on behalf of CDXA, or just coming to lunch to chat with fellow hams, why not become part of the engine that moves those activities along. Please think about how you might lend a hand in moving CDXA forward. Then let one of the officers know what help you can provide. And, when the nominating committee asks, get involved!



*In Loving Memory*  
**Joseph "Cliff" Wagoner**  
*October 23, 1939 – September 21, 2019*

## Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL (1939-2019), SK

CDXA lost a long-time member and friend with the passing of Cliff Wagoner on September 21. Cliff had served as CDXA Secretary-Treasurer since 2006, and also served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Carolina DX Foundation since its founding as a 501(c)(3) corporation in 2015.

A number of CDXA members, including spouses paid final respects to Cliff at a memorial service held in Huntersville.



## Scenes from the 2019 Barbeque

The hot weather of September finally broke and some friendly cloud cover provided a cooler venue for the 2019 barbeque, but the weather change didn't curtail appetites at all.



Host Joe talks with Eric while Gary, Bob, and Thomas listen in.



Gary, Thomas, Amy, Joe, Gina, and Barb "warm up" to dessert!



Carol talks with Eric and Nathan while Ida makes sure the donuts are lined up.



Joe, Paul, Art and Wayne share "war stories".



George and Wayne, whose friendship and ham radio chats go back to childhood days, reminisce about all the changes they've seen in amateur radio over the years.

## The Mathematical Mind

Q: How do you stay warm in an empty room?

A: Go stand in the corner—it's always 90 degrees.

Q: Did you hear about the statistician who drowned crossing a river?

A: It was three feet deep, on average.

Q: Why should the number 288 never be mentioned?

A: Because it's two gross.

Q: Are monsters good at math?

A: No, unless you Count Dracula.

Q: What did the mermaid wear to the math class?

A: An algae-bra.

Infinitely many mathematicians walk into a bar. The first says, "Give me a beer." The second says, "I'll have half a beer." The third says, "A quarter of a . . ."

Parallel lines have so much in common. It's a shame they'll never meet.

When algebra teachers retire, how do they cope with the aftermath?

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